

Claims:-

1. A textile material, the appearance of said textile material capable of being changed by stretching a whole or a part of the material in one or more pre-determined directions.
2. A textile material according to claim 1 wherein the change in appearance of the material is reversible.
3. A textile material according to claim 2 wherein the appearance of the material is returned substantially to its original appearance by stretching the material in a direction substantially at right angles to the original one or more directions of stretching.
4. A textile material according to claim 1 wherein the change in appearance of the material is achieved by stretching the material in a direction parallel to the warp and/or weft of the material and/or in a direction transversally to the warp and/or weft of the material.

5. A textile material according to claim 1 wherein the material includes a base fabric and one or more coating layers applied thereto.
6. A textile material according to claim 5 wherein the one or more coating layers are adhered to said base fabric.
7. A textile material according to claim 5 wherein the one or more coating layers differ in colour, texture and/or appearance of said base fabric.
8. A textile material according to claim 5 wherein the base fabric is any or any combination of a warp knitted fabric, a weft knitted fabric or a woven fabric.
9. A textile material according to claim 5 wherein the base fabric is approximately a 28 gauge fabric.
10. A textile material according to claim 5 wherein the base fabric is made from a polyester or other 100% synthetic material.

11. A textile material according to claim 5 wherein the one or more coating layers include a foil.
12. A textile material according to claim 11 wherein the foil is a metallic foil.
13. A textile material according to any preceding claim wherein stretching of the textile material in a first direction provides the material with a shiny appearance and stretching the textile material in one or more further directions provides the material with a matt appearance.
14. A textile material according to claim 13 wherein the first direction is a transverse direction to the warp of the fabric and the further direction is in a longitudinal direction of the warp of the fabric.
15. A textile material according to claim 1 wherein the material is used to form any or any combination of a garment, footwear, headwear, furnishing, upholstery or interior finishing.

16. A textile material according to claim 1 wherein a pattern, design or image is applied to the material and the appearance of the pattern, design or pattern changes on stretching of said material in said one or more pre-determined directions.
17. A method of making a textile material, said method including the steps of selecting a base fabric, applying one or more coating layers to at least a part of a side of the base fabric, and manipulating a whole or part of the coated fabric in order to alter the structure of the coated fabric.
18. A method according to claim 17 wherein manipulation of said coated fabric includes the steps of stretching a whole or a part of the coated fabric in a substantially transverse direction of the fabric and/or a substantially longitudinal direction of the fabric.
19. A method according to claim 18 wherein the coated fabric is stretched initially in a substantially transverse direction to the fabric and then in a substantially longitudinal direction of the fabric.

20. A method according to claim 17 wherein the base fabric is any of a warp knitted fabric, a weft knitted fabric and/or a woven fabric.
21. A method according to claim 17 wherein the one or more coating layers include a foil.
22. A method according to claim 21 wherein the foil is a metallic foil.
23. A method according to claim 18 wherein the stretching force applied to the fabric in a substantially transverse direction is parallel to the weft of the fabric.
24. A method according to claim 18 wherein the stretching force applied to the fabric in a substantially longitudinal direction is parallel to the warp of the fabric.
25. A method according to claim 17 wherein the one or more coating layers are applied to the base fabric by any or any combination of a Metatran method, transfer coating, laminating

procedure, a foil printing and smoking machine or a foil stamping machine.

26. A method according to claim 18 wherein the stretching steps are repeated a pre-determined number of times.
27. A method according to claim 17 wherein the manipulation of the coated fabric is sufficient to propagate stitch rupture of a whole or part of the fabric.
28. A method according to claim 18 wherein the stretching of the coated fabric in the transverse direction increases the length of the fabric in this direction by approximately one third.
29. A method according to claim 18 wherein the stretching force applied to the coated fabric in the transverse direction is at least 7 Newtons.
30. A method according to claim 29 wherein the stretching force applied to the coated fabric is at least 7.8 Newtons.

31. A method according to claim 17 wherein manipulation of the fabric is undertaken manually or by a Stenter machine.
32. A method according to claim 18 wherein stretching of the fabric in the longitudinal direction is sufficient to initiate unravelling or "unzipping" of the fabric.
33. A method according to claim 18 wherein the fabric is stretched in the longitudinal direction in sections of approximately 15-20cm in length.
34. A method according to claim 17 wherein the bond between the coating layer and the base fabric is greater than the bond between adjacent sections of the coating layer.
35. A method according to claim 17 wherein the one or more coating layers bond predominantly to the warp of the fabric.
36. A method according to claim 18 wherein stretching of the fabric in a longitudinal direction moves the coating layer away from the outermost surface of the fabric.

37. A method according to claim 18 wherein stretching of the fabric in a transverse direction moves the coating layer towards the outermost surface of the fabric.
38. A method according to claim 17 wherein a pattern, design or image is applied to material.
39. A method according to claim 38 wherein the pattern, design or image is applied to the outermost surface of said one or more coating layers prior to manipulation of the fabric.
40. A method according to claim 38 wherein the one or more coating layers are provided in the shape of the pattern, design or image and applied to the base fabric.
41. A method according to claim 38 wherein the pattern, design or image is applied to the outermost surface of said one or more coating layers during or after manipulation of the fabric.
42. A method according to claim 38 wherein the pattern, design or image is fixed into the fabric by bonding.

43. A method according to claim 17 wherein the base fabric is of substantially equal thickness to the one or more coating layers.

44. A method according to claim 17 wherein the base fabric is thinner than that of the one or more coating layers.

45. A method according to claim 17 wherein any or any combination of lycra, Tactel or nylon is incorporated into the warp of the fabric.

46. A textile material formed by the method according to claim 17.